

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for benchmarking data relating to an asset, comprising the steps of:  
selecting a group of assets be included in the pool of benchmarking information on a computer;  
identifying on a computer an asset characteristic relating to an asset included in the pool of benchmarking information; and  
invoking a benchmark heuristic on a computer to generate a benchmark value relating to the identified asset characteristic;  
wherein at least two organizations contribute to the pool of benchmarking information.
2. A method for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 1, wherein the selected group of assets are selected on the basis of a shared asset characteristic.
3. A method for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 1, further comprising comparing the benchmark value to a characteristic of a target asset.
4. A method for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 1, wherein the pool of benchmarking information and the benchmark value are stored on a database.
5. A method for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 1, wherein at least two non-related organizations contribute to the pool of benchmarking information.
6. A method for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 1, wherein the benchmark value is cost information relating to the asset.
7. A method for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 1, wherein organizationally identifiable information is not accessible to a end-user.

8. A method of benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 1, wherein an end-user in one organization cannot view organizationally identifiable information belonging to a different organization.
9. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset, comprising:
  - a plurality of assets including an asset characteristic and a data value for said asset characteristic;
  - a plurality of organizations with relationships to said plurality of assets;
  - a benchmarking information pool including said data value for said asset characteristic for said plurality of assets associated with said plurality of organizations; and
  - a benchmark heuristic to generate a benchmark value for said asset characteristic from said benchmarking information pool.
10. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 9, wherein said plurality of organizations include at least two unrelated organizations.
11. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 9, said benchmarking information pool including a plurality of organizationally identifiable data, wherein said plurality of organizationally identifiable data is hidden from said benchmarking information pool before the application of said benchmarking heuristic.
12. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 11, wherein said plurality of organizationally identifiable data is hidden from said plurality of organizations.
13. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 9, wherein said benchmark value is a monetary amount.
14. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 9,
  - said plurality of assets including a first asset characteristic, a second asset characteristic and a larger plurality of assets;
  - wherein said plurality of assets are a subset of said larger plurality of assets;

wherein said first asset characteristic is included in said benchmarking information pool; and

wherein said plurality of assets are selective identified from said larger plurality of assets on the basis of said second asset characteristic.

15. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 14, wherein said second asset characteristic is not included in said benchmarking information pool.

16. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 9, further comprising a target asset including said asset characteristic and a target value, wherein said system automatically compares said target value to said benchmark value.

17. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 9, further comprising a database, wherein said pool of benchmarking information is stored on a database.

18. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset as in claim 9, further comprising a plurality of asset values and a plurality of benchmark values, wherein said benchmark heuristic generates said plurality of benchmark values from said plurality of asset values.

19. A system for benchmarking data relating to an asset, comprising:  
a plurality of assets, including a subset of selected assets, wherein each asset in said plurality of assets includes a plurality of asset characteristics and wherein each said asset characteristic has a data value;

a plurality of organizationally identifiable data, including a subset of said asset characteristics and said data value relating to said asset characteristics;

a plurality of unrelated organizations with relationships to said plurality of assets;

a benchmarking information pool including said data value for said asset characteristic for said plurality of assets associated with said plurality of organizations; and

a benchmark heuristic to generate a plurality of benchmark values for said plurality of asset characteristics from said benchmarking information pool.